



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens with disabilities are able to live independent, self-determined lives often supported by dedicated direct support professionals; and

WHEREAS, the lives of families who have children with disabilities are enriched by direct support professionals who provide support to them; and

WHEREAS, when all people, including people for which we provide support, are recognized as fully participating members of society, our communities are strengthened; and

WHEREAS, in order to fully support people with disabilities and their families, direct support professionals must be recognized as valued members of our society; and

WHEREAS, our system of education is enhanced when students with disabilities, often supported by dedicated classroom direct support professionals, are included in an educational process which fosters acceptance of different abilities, talents, and gifts; and

WHEREAS, civic pride and understanding in our neighborhoods is nurtured when we broaden public awareness of disability issues and the essential role direct support professionals play to support people with disabilities in living lives of freedom with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the vitality of our state's economy and culture is fostered by every citizen of this state, including people often supported by direct support professionals, when they are able to make their own unique contributions to living and working in Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim
April 26, 2004, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all citizens to recognize direct support professionals in the state and the work they do to support people with disabilities in Louisiana communities.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 4th day of April
A.D., 2004.*

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana



*Attest By
The Governor*

Joseph S. Keithen
Secretary of State